

REMARKS

Preliminarily, the Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the allowability of claims 6-8, 10 and 11, as well suggesting the allowable nature of a claim incorporating, *inter alia*, the features of claim 33 into claim 31.

Upon entry of this amendment claims 2, 7-14, and 43-63 will be pending in this application. Claim 2 has been amended to reflect the features of claims 4-6. New claims 43-48 have been added to more distinctly claim the subject matter of the presently claimed invention, and are supported throughout the specification, for example, at pages 7, 10 and 13. New claims 49-57 have been added in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, with claim 49 representing, *inter alia*, many of the features of previous claims 31 and 33. New claims 58-63 have been presented to more distinctly claim the subject matter of the presently claimed invention, and are supported throughout the specification, for example, at pages 7, 10 and 13. Accordingly, no new matter has been introduced.

Claims 15-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as being non-enabled. Claims 15-19, 31 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Kumagai *et al.* (U.S. 5,837,674). Claims 15, 19-29 and 31-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Holmes-Farley *et al.* (U.S. 5,667,775). Claims 1, 14, 15, 30 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Young *et al.* (U.S. published patent application 2003/0224501). Claims 1-5, 9, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Trollsas *et al.* (U.S. 6,458,889). The Applicant respectfully submits that the presently pending claims are enabled and neither taught nor suggested by the above references.

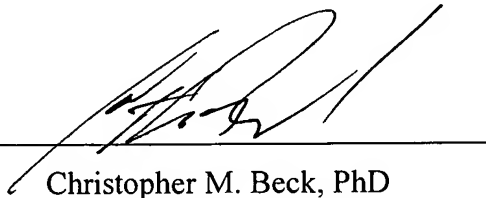
Finally, claims 6-8, 10 and 11 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim. The Applicant respectfully submits that the presently pending claims render this rejection moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be allowed to issue. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date: November 7, 2006

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Beck', is written over a horizontal line.

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